



SR0503

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Curtis Stokes Jr., who passed away on January 13, 2008; and

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WHEREAS, Curtis Stokes Jr. was born on May 8, 1936 in Helena, Arkansas; he was the second of three children born to Curtis Stokes Sr. and Mildred J. Hodges; and

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WHEREAS, Curtis Stokes Jr. confessed his faith in Christ at an early age; he later became a member of St. Carthage Catholic Church; and

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WHEREAS, Curtis Stokes Jr. received his education in the Chicago Public School system and was a member of the 1950 DuSable High School graduating class; and

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WHEREAS, Curtis Stokes Jr. served his country with distinction as a member of the United States Air Force and USAF Reserve from 1955 until 1962; after his honorable discharge from the Air Force, he attended Wilson Junior College; and

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WHEREAS, Curtis Stokes Jr. was a loyal employee of the United States Post Office for several years; after resigning from the Post Office, he became an entrepreneur; for the last

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1 17 years of his life, he served as an employee of the Chicago  
2 Public School system, where he was assigned to Dunbar High  
3 School as a Guidance Counselor's Assistant; he also served as  
4 the coach of the girl's softball team, where he was fondly  
5 referred to as "Stokes"; he eventually ascended to the position  
6 of Chief Security Officer at Dunbar, the school he referred to  
7 as "his" school; and

8 WHEREAS, Curtis Stokes Jr. loved his home, which served as  
9 a gathering place on any given day and was referred to as "The  
10 Little House on the Prairie"; he enjoying exploring the  
11 culinary arts, taking his family on vacations, fishing for his  
12 annual October Fish Fry, reading, and spending quality time  
13 with his many loved ones; and

14 WHEREAS, Curtis Stokes Jr. was preceded in death by his  
15 parents and his brother, Willie Morris; and

16 WHEREAS, Curtis Stokes Jr. is survived by his loving wife,  
17 Brenda; his endearing sons, Durante (Debra) and Derrick  
18 (Jermaise); his doting sister, Ollie (Nelson) McLemore; his  
19 adoring grandchildren, Durante, Nicole, Dominique, and Derrick  
20 Tyler; his grandson, Donzell Stokes; his dedicated uncle, James  
21 Hodges; his special cousin, Patricia Nelson; and his many  
22 nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, colleagues, co-workers,  
23 and friends; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
3 his family and friends, the passing of Curtis Stokes Jr.; and  
4 be it further

5           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to the family of Curtis Stokes Jr. as an expression  
7 of our sympathy.